JL: 12/28/75

As I lay abed this morning - it has become regular that I can't sleep as long as I'd like - it occurred to me that I should remind you of a coming change in our routine. It will begin on the 2d and I plan further charges to coincide with Lil's tax season. While with the hours you keep part of it probably will make no difference, I'll spell it out.

The beginning of the season there is little point in Lil's getting to her office before 9. However, there are special problem cases for which she does make earlier dates, about 8 a.m. as the season wears on it will become an 8 a.m. start fairly regularly.

Mornings I have blood tests I'll want to be at the lab before 8:30, when it opens, because the aiting line gets too long. While I can read and the time isn't wasted I'm almost overwhelmbed by the amount of cleaning up I have to do, mostly filing, before I can hope to get back to writing - even just catching up on some FOIA stuff. I now spend a little time on this daily, not to have to bend and cut the circulation off in the legs for too long a period.

My leg and thigh muscles have been too little used for too long. The hury when I walk in the hills, which means an extra burden. So, I've decided to do my walking until this improves, perhaps for the entire Tax season, at the shopping center at which Lil works. She is at one end. I can walk on the level and on paving there. I think I'd do it morning and night although when the wind blows there it cuts like hell because the design makes it like a wind-tunnel. For the beginning at least it represents a big advantage. There are about a half-dozen benches scattered along the road edge, for the bus that stops only once an hour. So, if the legs bother me, I may freeze the ass but I can get the legs up.

She has to cut down on the amount of work she has been doing. The office was too crowded anyway. She persuaded the franchise owner to put a small addition on (and what a crummy job!) and she will provide what Block calls "executive service," by appointment and at a higher rate. She will also continue to do virtually all the toughest returns for the area and the farm returns, which take consoderable time. She has been doing much of this at home, working on an average when it gets busy until 11 or so. It is too much. But she has a fantastic clientele of those with simple returns anyone can do where the people will trust nobody else. It is out hope that by being in a separate office and not immediately visible this will be reduced and she'll be able to put in fewer hours.

I will have more of the shipping and packaging work to do. What she has been doing is recording all the orders. Beginning with PM because of the amount of non-deliveries we are also keeping a separate book of daily shipments. More work but needed, She has also been typing labels. I'll now have to do all except the posting in our record books of payments, etc. This will cut down on my time.

We don't know how her leaving will work. We aim for 5. One day a week, in the morning, I'll be doing the grocery shopping. I'll probably make it a non-blood-testing day to keep from getting home too late. So, generally I'll be home by 10, often earlier. The morning I shop, at least for the present, I won't dare walk. Standing is rough.

I was also musing about the future. The way things now look there is a better likelihood that there will be failure than success in this Congress. What to do then? You have recently talked about some legal steps. Back in April I tried the sheep and goats act but the goats remained goats and stank more. So, my mind went back to the time I had reason to believe there were efforts to arrange a Shaw mistrial. One centered around Lane, the other Farewell America. I did nothing when Citizen's Dissent appeared although it is as sick and dishonest a book as I've ever read. However, when it appeared that Lane's commercializing might cause a mistrial and I wanted that case tried, one weeked I did a book on him. In three days, while also preparing for a N.O. trip early the next morning. Only Gary has read it. I haven't. But it is a job on Lane, believeme! Then, when I learned what the Garrison" case" was, while I spent three more days in N.O. and started working on PM II, in the back of my mind there nestled ~~Mardi Gras~~ Lemming:The Mardi Gras Solutions

To Political Assassinations. When I returned I started but did little with a Lemming file, a folder into which I put occasional tidbits. I always did plan to get back to Garrison and Lane, who are part of the essential historical record and between them worth a book.

My point now is merely to raise the question and I'll ask JDW to think about it when he has some free thinking time, in the event we have the disaster now possible. Off the top, I can think of two basic structures: Mostly Garrison and Lane and the minor figures following (with the exceptation that unless the ridiculous gets boring there is so much ludicrous about them all it would not run dry); or a fairly equal division of space, which I think would be unfaithful.

Whether or not I would make a commercially-acceptable book, and I think it could, it is a part of the grim history. It could be funny as hell, too. Except for Lane. He is not funny and what he has done has never been funny. That he is sick is not exculpatory. He has been the major problem from the beginning. (If he had not failed to live up to his contract with Grove and then gypped Grove out of the advance - I go into this in detail in the draft of the book on him- I'm sure Barney Rosset would have read and then published Whitewash. If that had happened in 1965 all could have been different.) His initial dishonesties and corruptions were deliberate. As a matter of fact, he is worth what there can't be, a separate study. He is sui generis in the field of finks. Unlike Bud, for example, Lane knows exactly what he is doing. Lloyd likes to quote the spontaneous answer I gave him the first time he asked me about Lane. It was, approx: "He is an exceptionally able man who I've never known to be on the wrong side on any question of political principle and never known to be unselfish about it, a man without scruple of conscience."

This is a future project I just want you to have in mind for whatever thought you may be able to give it for -if - the time comes.

My mind started turning this way several days ago when I was waiting for Lil while she shopped. I then again thought of the novel I always planned around that strange chick in N.O., from whom I've not heard in some years now.

Much will depend on the progress I make. The last several days have not been encouraging. Last night by left foot was more discolored than the rest of the leg, with more blood vessels prominent and again with what appears to be bruising although I have been careful not to bruise anything. Also, there are the immediately important concerns. What I have to do soon is decide whether or not I'll try to launch a radio campaign with PM. We have to have reached the saturation point from the flyers. The return on them is the best yet, an encouraging sign. It says the market wants the new and despite conditions will go for it. I have taken a few unpromising initial steps, not radio. I was not able to see Pete Gamble about the radio one thanks to Bud. I was to have seen Pete time before last but Bud said he wanted to see me and never got back to his office. Last time we had an immediate worry.

Before the phlebitis you will remember I had reached basic decisions along this line. This is why I considered titling PM WW V: Post Mortem. To ark the end of that work and approach and focus.

So, whe n you can, please think and let me know. It would be, absent an immediate disaster, for after Agent Oswald.

Best,